



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO ADOPTS CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS RECYCLING ORDINANCE

SAN DIEGO, CA— The San Diego City Council passed a Construction and Demolition Debris Diversion Deposit Ordinance (C&D Ordinance) on October 10, 2005 that is designed to extend the life of the Miramar Landfill and to help the city meet state recycling mandates. The ordinance is expected to take effect in summer 2006.

“C&D debris comprises about one-third of the trash buried in the Miramar Landfill—or about 400,000 tons yearly. With the Miramar Landfill scheduled to close in only seven years the C&D recycling ordinance is extremely important to extend the life of the only city-run landfill in San Diego,” said Elmer L. Heap Jr., director of the city’s Environmental Services Department.

Much of the 400,000 tons of C&D material buried each year in the Miramar landfill is recyclable. This debris typically includes asphalt, concrete, brick, dirt, cabinets, doors, fixtures, windows, carpet and carpet padding, cardboard, drywall, landscape debris, unpainted wood and pallets, roofing materials, and scrap metal. Many private-sector facilities currently exist in the San Diego area to recycle these materials, if delivered separated from other waste.

In addition to facilities that accept already-sorted material, the City of San Diego is working with a contractor to build a mixed-waste transfer station at the Miramar Landfill, which will accept mixed loads of waste to be sorted and marketed at the facility. Additional mixed-waste facilities are pending in the region.

The C&D Ordinance will require applicants for building and demolition permits to pay a deposit based on the type and square footage of their project. The C&D diversion deposit will be

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refunded in whole or in part after documentation is submitted to the city showing that certain recycling requirements are met. The ordinance will take effect 45 days after a mixed C&D recycling facility is certified in the City of San Diego as having achieved a 50 percent recycling rate. At that time applicants will need to document 50 percent diversion for a full refund. The diversion requirement will increase to 75 percent 30 days after a mixed C&D recycling facility in the city is certified as being able to divert 75 percent of the material being processed. Refunds will be prorated for partial compliance. Full refunds will be made for projects that properly document the required diversion.

For customer convenience, the C&D diversion deposit will be paid along with permitting fees at the city's Development Services Department. The downtown permitting center, 1222 First Ave., features an educational display explaining the benefits of the program.

"We are committed to working together to prolong the life the Miramar Landfill," said Development Services Director Gary Halbert.

Projects exempt from the deposit requirement include pools, fences and retaining walls; projects that only require a plumbing, electrical or mechanical permit; projects generating only hazardous wastes, and projects with a calculated deposit less than \$100.

Before the ordinance takes effect, the city and the building and demolition community will become partners to provide a strong education campaign. This outreach campaign, along with the growing C&D recycling infrastructure in the City of San Diego, will help extend the life of the Miramar Landfill beyond its projected closure date of 2012.

Since the passage of the state's "Integrated Waste Management Act" in 1989, the city has been unsuccessful in meeting the law through a voluntary recycling policy. The Act, also known as AB939, requires local municipalities to divert 50 percent of their waste from landfilling by 2000 or risk potential fines of \$10,000 a day.

Currently the City of San Diego diverts only 45 percent of its waste from the Miramar Landfill and has an extension to December 31, 2005 to meet the mandated diversion requirement. City officials view the C&D ordinance as a necessary step in complying with this state law.

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For information regarding the benefits of recycling C&D material, tips to recycle C&D debris at the job site, locations of recycling facilities, text of the ordinance and other facts on C&D recycling, visit www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/green.shtml.

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection disposal, recycling and environmentally sound management to meet the city's long-term disposal needs. For facts on the importance of recycling in San Diego, go to www.RecycleOrElse.com. For more information about the Environmental Services Department, visit www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/.

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